

# Three Rules for Knowing the Will of God

*Ephesians 5:15-17 (NIV)*

*<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live--not as unwise but as wise,*

*<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.*

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

The will of God is not hidden, but rather it is revealed to us through the Word of God. God does not bypass our minds when it comes to His will for us. That's why Paul said in *Ephesians 5:17 (NIV)* *<sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*

## **I. Nothing is the will of God if it is not in accordance with the Word of God.**

The Bible is not a book of rules, but rather it is a book of principles, directions and life.

Too often we want to make a list of rules to govern our lives rather than living by Biblical principles.

God is not pleased by our following rules - anymore than we are pleased when our children do, just what we say instead of living like we want them to.

Any list we make would be drastically insufficient!

## **A. Our Choice's in Life. Are they our choices?**

1. Example: Marriage

*2 Corinthians 6:14 (NIV)*

*<sup>14</sup> Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

*Amos 3:3 (NIV)*

*<sup>3</sup> Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?*

There is more to choosing a soulmate for life than just whether or not they are a professing Christian also! ex. saved but not living for the Lord.

Which one do you marry? The one God has placed in your heart. It's not about looks, appearance, how schooling or money they have. It's all about the love of God that He has placed in your heart for your soulmate for life.

2 . Example: Vocation

*1 Peter 4:11 (NIV)*

*<sup>11</sup> If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*

*1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)*

*<sup>31</sup> So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

**Colossians 3:23 (NIV)**

***23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,***

Whatever vocation we enter into we must be able to honor God with our lives. Can we glorify God in what we are doing? If not then it is not the will of God!

**B. The question we must answer is this: What is your final authority?** In the realm of Christendom, we find four final authorities.

1. For some the church is the final authority.
  - a. The church is final because the Pastor said so.
  - b. The church is final because the board of the church said so.
  
2. For others, human experience is the final authority
  - a. "It happened to me, therefore it is true!"
  - b. "I don't care what the Bible says, I know what I feel!"
  
3. Then there is human reasoning as the final authority.
  - a. Nobody is right and nobody is wrong because we are all looking for truth.
  - b. What they cannot conceive they will not believe; what they cannot understand, they will not accept.  
"It doesn't make sense to me that there is a hell, so there is no hell!"
  
4. Finally, there are those who take the Bible as the only final authority in their lives.
  - a. I would hope that this is where each of us are.
  - b. Many People say that the Word of God is their final authority but they continually make important decisions on the basis of human reasoning or human experience.
  - c. Final authority means that, like it or not, there is no where else to turn to for answers.

What is the final authority in your life?